ManyPlay sudoku for kids: a gentle 6 by 6 first step

Peabody blog · Games · updated 2026-11-09

ManyPlay's free 6 by 6 sudoku plays in the browser with no download or sign-up, gives hints that explain why, and prints. What it does and what parents should know.

ManyPlay's sudoku for kids is a free 6 by 6 sudoku that plays in the browser with no download and no sign-up. It uses the digits 1 to 6 and boxes of two rows by three columns, so a child learns the real rules of sudoku on a board small enough to finish in a few minutes. The ManyPlay team wrote to us after reading our page of free puzzle games for kids, and we're glad they did: a good first sudoku is surprisingly hard to find. We've added it to that page as the first pick among puzzle games on other sites. Peabody (peabody.kids) is free for everyone through the end of 2026.

We make Peabody, which has its own sudoku, so weigh our view with that in mind. We wrote this from ManyPlay's own pages on 9 November 2026.

Why a 6 by 6 board is the right start

A classic 9 by 9 sudoku has 81 cells, and for a child that can feel like a wall. A 6 by 6 board has 36. The rule is exactly the same: every row, every column and every box holds each digit once. So everything a child learns here carries straight over to the big puzzle later. That's what makes it a real first step rather than a toy version.

What we liked

- Hints that teach. When a child gets stuck, a hint shows the next step and explains why it works. That's the difference between a game that tells you the answer and one that teaches you to find it.
- Mistakes don't end the game. A wrong digit never stops play, so a child can try, notice and fix, which is how logic is learned.
- Notes, undo and large digits on every board, so it's comfortable for small fingers and young eyes.
- A clear next step. When 6 by 6 feels easy, ManyPlay's easy 9 by 9 sudoku uses the same two techniques.
- A printable version. A 6 by 6 sheet prints with the answer on a second page, for car trips and quiet time away from screens.
- Touch, mouse or keyboard, in the browser on a phone, tablet or Chromebook.

Two ways to solve, in plain words

ManyPlay's page explains the two starting techniques well, and they're worth teaching out loud:

1. Pick a cell. Look at its row, its column and its box. If only one digit from 1 to 6 is missing, that's the answer.
2. Pick a digit, say 3. Look for the box where 3 has only one place it can go.

Sit with your child for the first puzzle and say your thinking out loud. After two or three boards, ask them to explain a move to you.

What sudoku builds

Sudoku has no arithmetic in it at all; the digits could just as well be colors or animals. What it practises is logic: holding a few facts in mind, ruling things out, and checking your work before you commit. Those are the same habits a child needs for word problems and for science, and a small board lets them practise without frustration.

What parents should know

ManyPlay says its site is meant for ages 13 and up, and that younger children should play with a parent or teacher. We'd take that at face value: open the kids' sudoku page for your child rather than handing them the whole site. The sudoku for kids page loaded no ads when we checked, but ManyPlay's home page does carry them, and the site also has arcade and solitaire games. Accounts are optional and you don't need one to play.

Good to know

For a child who likes numbers and patterns, a few minutes of small sudoku is a lovely habit, and ManyPlay's version is kind about mistakes and clear about why. Pair it with a story from our library at bedtime, and you have a calm, thinking evening.

Free at peabody.kids/blog/manyplay-sudoku-for-kids-6x6